

Appl. No. 10/079,710
Response date: August 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the present application, claims 6-11 and 15-20 stand rejected as being anticipated or rendered obvious by Tsunikawa (US Patent No 4,639,924). Claims 3 and 11, which stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, have been amended accordingly.

Regarding the 102/103 rejections, Applicant submits that Tsunikawa does not anticipate or render obvious the above claims for a number of reasons. For example, the above rejections are premised on the regulated power supply REG in Tsunikawa disclosing the overhead controller element in the claims. However, the REG does not anticipate or teach the overhead controller; in fact, it performs quite the opposite function of the claimed overhead controller. The regulated power supply REG provides a constant voltage to the circuit of Tsunikawa, as described in the passage below from the reference:

The operation of the circuit of FIG. 6 is now explained with reference to FIG. 7.

In the modulator 102, a constant voltage from the regulated power supply REG₁ is applied to a non-inverting input terminal of the operational amplifier

OP.sub.11 ... (col. 7, lines 23-28)

Conversely, the express purpose of the overhead controller is to provide a variable voltage, V_{OCF} , that is used to accommodate changes in the drive current. See page 11-12, paragraphs 44-50.

Clearly, the regulated power supply REG does not disclose, teach, or suggest the overhead controller or even the functions performed by the overhead controller. As such, Tsunikawa is defective as an anticipatory and/or obviousness reference for at least lacking the overhead controller and the present rejections based on Tsunikawa should be withdrawn.

In view of the above response, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that such action be taken. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this Amendment or to the subject application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are due with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, necessitated by this amendment and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500477.

Respectfully submitted,



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